

ER 89-0048



## Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

DEC 30 1988

The Honorable William H. Webster  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Webster:

As Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and with the concurrence of the other involved Federal agencies, I have taken the lead to review and coordinate the emergency medical services (EMS) related activities of Federal departments and agencies.

To facilitate this mission, the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS) was formed. It includes representatives from various Federal departments and agencies having responsibilities in the area of emergency medical services. This committee is attempting to establish a government-wide standard of care for prehospital emergency medical services providers, improve reciprocity among government agencies, improve patient care, and reduce costs for training and skills maintenance.

A committee task group, which has been studying various alternatives for establishing a government-wide standard, has determined that the objective can be accomplished by requiring that Federal employees who serve as emergency medical technicians (EMT-A, EMT-I, and EMT-P) be certified with the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT). The NREMT is an independent, not-for-profit, nongovernment agency, specifically established by an American Medical Association Task Force as a national certification agency to provide uniform standards for training and examination of EMS providers. The committee has also determined from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) that agencies have the general authority to impose requirements as conditions of continued employment without approval from OPM (see enclosed letter).

The FICEMS recommends that each agency require certification with the NREMT as a condition of continuing employment for Federal EMS providers who serve as emergency medical technicians. For specific instructions and procedures, please have a member of your staff contact Mr. Rocco V. Morando, Executive Director, National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, P.O. Box 29233, Columbus, Ohio 43229, (614) 888-4484.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Julius W. Becton, Jr.", is written over the typed name.

Julius W. Becton, Jr.  
Director

Enclosure

DD/A REGISTRY  
FILE: OAM-15-AR



United States  
Office of  
Personnel Management

Washington, D.C. 20415

In Reply Refer To:

Your Reference:

OCT 20 1987

Mr. Joseph A. Moreland  
Chairman  
Federal Interagency Committee  
on Emergency Medical Services  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20472

Dear Mr. Moreland:

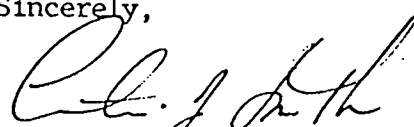
This is in response to your recent request for substantiation that the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) approval is not necessary for agencies to require that certification with the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians be a condition of continuing employment for Federal personnel who serve as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). Upon receiving OPM's concurrence you state that your Committee intends to recommend to each Federal agency employing such personnel that certification be a condition of continuing employment.

You note that you are making this request to establish government-wide standards of care for employees performing this work. At the present time, there is no government-wide classification series for such personnel, since most employees are in different occupational series and many are performing this work on a part-time basis.

You are correct in concluding that OPM approval is not required for agencies to adopt certification requirements as a condition of continuing employment for such personnel. Qualification requirements of OPM are generally applicable to: (1) applicants who must meet the qualification standards to be admitted to or rated in examinations; (2) employees who have not completed their probationary period; and (3) employees involved in any examination process, such as promotion or reassignment actions. Unless Federal personnel who serve as Emergency Medical Technicians fall into any of these categories, OPM qualification requirements do not apply.

As indicated, OPM requirements apply in only certain situations. Agencies, however, have the general authority to impose requirements as conditions of continued employment, subject to existing laws, rules and regulations. It must be recognized that the imposition of such requirements is an agency decision and not directed by OPM. Accordingly, agencies are fully responsible for any requirements established as well as their enforcement.

Sincerely,

  
Curtis J. Smith  
Associate Director  
for Career Entry